



F A X C O V E R

Date April 18, 2002 **Number of pages (including cover):** 6
To Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office
Technology Center 2100
Applicant Michael K. Blackwell, et al.
Serial No: 09/870,418
Confirmation No: 8017
Filing Date: May 30, 2001
Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTHORIZING AND
PLAYING BACK LIGHTING SEQUENCES
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I hereby certify that a Transmittal Letter and a Preliminary Amendment in the above-referenced application (total of 6 pages including cover sheet) are being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Typed or Printed Name of Person
Signing Certification

Date: April 18, 2002

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WG&S File Number: C01104/70001

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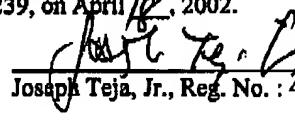
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: C01104/70001 (RFG/JT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Michael K. Blackwell, et al.
Serial No: 09/870,418
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For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTHORIZING AND
PLAYING BACK LIGHTING SEQUENCES
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2152

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being facsimile transmitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.6(d) to the Commissioner for Patents at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Technology Center 2100, Before Final, fax number 1-703-746-7239, on April 18, 2002.


Joseph Teja, Jr., Reg. No. : 45,157

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

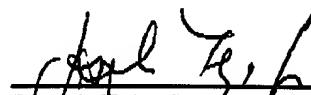
Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

Preliminary Amendment
 Facsimile Cover

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (617) 720-3500, Boston, Massachusetts.

No fee is due. If the fee is insufficient, the balance may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,


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Docket No.: C01104/70001
Dated: April 18, 2002

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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: C01104/70001 (RFG/JT)

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Joseph Teja, Jr.
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Please substitute the indicated paragraph with the rewritten paragraph below. A version of the paragraph with all changes made by the current amendment shown using bolded bracketing and underlining is attached hereto, and is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As discussed above, in one embodiment of the present invention, external signals received, via external interface 650, can be provided directly to the processor 651, which can then take any of the various actions described above based on the external signals, e.g., altering the rate at which lighting sequences are played back, branching within or between lighting sequences, altering brightness or other parameters of lighting sequences being played back, etc.

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81 In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 6, a cue table 630 is also provided to compare or interpret external signals received via the external interface 650, and to provide information related thereto to the processor 651. The cue table 630 may contain information relating to various inputs or conditions received by the external interface 650, as designated by the author of a lighting sequence 20, to effect the execution or output of the lighting sequence. The cue table can include a list of if/then statements, other types of boolean expressions, or any other types of functions to interpret actions to be taken during execution of the lighting program based upon the information received from various inputs or conditions. Thus, if the playback device 31 compares an input to the cue table 630 and determines that a condition has been satisfied or a designated signal has been received, the playback device 31 may alter the execution or output of the lighting sequence 20 as indicated by the program, based upon information that is stored within the cue table 630 and provided to the processor 651. In the embodiment shown in Figure 6, the signals received by the external interface 650 can be provided either directly to the processor 651 or can be interpreted via the cue table 630. It should be appreciated that other configurations are possible, as the present invention is not limited to the particular implementation shown in Figure 6. For example, the signals received by the external interface 650 can, in another embodiment of the invention, not be sourced directly to the processor 651, such that they can always be interpreted via the cue table 630. Alternatively, in another embodiment of the invention, the cue table 630 can be eliminated.--

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